

moving the nation closer to social progress, it was WWII and the minority veterans who distinguished themselves so often and so valiantly who gave us the opportunity to move forward as a community and a nation.

Let me tell you a little bit about one of the most important and influential members of the WWII generation. Those Hispanics who fought against the Nazis and Imperial Japan showed their bravery and courage time and time again. They came home from the war that equalized the rich and poor, educated and uneducated, to a country which still openly discriminated against them because of their ethnicity.

Probably the best-known WWII veteran Hispanic descent in South Texas was Dr. Hector P. Garcia. Dr. Garcia came back to South Texas and was, with many Hispanic veterans, treated with familiar contempt by people in the country for which they had shed blood in a great war and a just cause.

What crystallized the cause of civil rights for so many Hispanic veterans and Hispanic Americans was the treatment of Army Private Felix Longoria, a soldier lost in WWII. Longoria's family wanted to bury him at Three Rivers near their home, but the cemetery was for whites only.

Dr. Garcia, and all veterans who were coming home were shocked by the blatant racism that was still so prevalent in their home. They believed in fighting for the cause of democracy and for the United States. They also believed that their service would bring them the respect that had eluded them in everyday life before the war.

Dr. Garcia called the funeral home and asked them to reconsider. The funeral home owner refused. Dr. Garcia and other South Texas veterans were not deterred. They took their case to the federal level via telegrams and correspondence. Longoria was buried two months later in Arlington National Cemetery with the help of then-Senator Lyndon Johnson.

Out of all this came the American GI Forum, the first Hispanic civil rights organization. Hispanics in the United States have proudly served their country from the American Revolution to our NATO activity in Kosovo. In the course of that service, 38 Hispanics have been awarded the Medal of Honor, our country's highest award for military bravery and service. That is the highest number of Medals of Honor among ethnic minorities. I appreciate the efforts of the House of Representatives today in honoring these minority veterans.

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.J. Res. 98, the Day of Honor 2000 to honor and recognize the service of minority veterans in the United States Armed Forces during World War II. I am an original cosponsor of H.J. Res. 98.

Since the days of the Buffalo Soldiers (1866), minorities have served with bravery and distinction in the United States Military with little or no recognition. There were twenty-three Medal of Honor recipients from the four African American army regiments that came to be known as the Buffalo Soldiers.

Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, and Native Hawaiians also served their country honorably and with great distinction during World War II.

Many Japanese-Americans served with the Army's much-decorated 442nd Regimental Combat Team or 100th Infantry Battalion. Organized in Hawaii, the units fought in Europe.

About one-third of their members volunteered from U.S. relocation camps to which they had been sent as "enemies" of America.

In four weeks of heavy combat in October–November 1944, the 442d RCT liberated Bruyeres and Biffontaine and rescued a "lost battalion" that had become cut off from the 36th Division. For this the 100th, 2d, and 3d Battalions, 442d Infantry, and the 232d Engineer Company were each awarded the Distinguished Unit Citation [later re-designated as the President Unit Citation].

Two soldiers of Asian ancestry, Army Pfc. Sadao Munemori and Jose Calugas of the Philippine Scouts, received the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military accolade, during the World War II era.

At least 20 Asian-American heroes of World War II will belatedly receive the Medal of Honor in the White House ceremony on June 21. Only 441 such awards were given during WWII. This tribute completes an effort ordered by Congress to identify Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders who had won the second-highest medal, the Distinguished Service Cross, and to recommend Medal of Honor upgrades to President Clinton in deserving cases. Sen. Daniel Inouye, D–Hawaii, will be among those recipients. Many others cited were killed in action or have died since the war, and family members will accept the awards posthumously.

Primary among Pacific Islanders serving in WWII were the Filipino Vets. As members of Philippine army scouts and guerrilla units attached to U.S. forces during World War II, they fought alongside Americans at Bataan, survived the infamous "Death March," hid and fed U.S. soldiers who escaped capture and helped Gen. Douglas MacArthur's army liberate their homeland, then an American colony. These deserving veterans are in a fight, even now, to obtain the benefits they deserve from the United States government.

This is a record of stellar service. So, it is fitting that we pass H.J. Res. 98 today to honor those who served as well during that war and who have never truly been recognized for their effort and their sacrifices—often the ultimate sacrifice, their lives.

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the joint resolution, H.J. Res. 98.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the joint resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the Senate joint resolution (S.J. Res. 44) supporting the Day of Honor 2000 to honor and recognize the service of minority veterans in the United States Armed Forces during World War II, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the Senate joint resolution, as follows:

S.J. RES. 44

Whereas World War II was a determining event of the 20th century in that it ensured the preservation and continuation of American democracy;

Whereas the United States called upon all its citizens, including the most oppressed of its citizens, to provide service and sacrifice in that war to achieve the Allied victory over Nazism and fascism;

Whereas the United States citizens who served in that war, many of whom gave the ultimate sacrifice of their lives, included more than 1,200,000 African Americans, more than 300,000 Hispanic Americans, more than 50,000 Asian Americans, more than 20,000 Native Americans, more than 6,000 Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, and more than 3,000 Native Alaskans;

Whereas because of invidious discrimination, many of the courageous military activities of these minorities were not reported and honored fully and appropriately until decades after the Allied victory in World War II;

Whereas the motto of the United States, "E Pluribus Unum" (Out of Many, One), promotes our fundamental unity as Americans and acknowledges our diversity as our greatest strength; and

Whereas the Day of Honor 2000 Project has enlisted communities across the United States to participate in celebrations to honor minority veterans of World War II on May 25, 2000, and throughout the year 2000: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Congress—*

(1) commends the African American, Hispanic American, Asian American, Native American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islanders, Native Alaskan, and other minority veterans of the United States Armed Forces who served during World War II;

(2) especially honors those minority veterans who gave their lives in service to the United States during that war;

(3) supports the goals and ideas of the "Day of Honor 2000" in celebration and recognition of the extraordinary service of all minority veterans in the United States Armed Forces during World War II; and

(4) authorizes and requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to honor these minority veterans with appropriate programs and activities.

The Senate joint resolution was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

A similar House joint resolution (H.J. Res. 98) was laid on the table.

#### CONSIDERING MEMBER AS FIRST COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1202

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I may hereafter be considered as the first sponsor of H.R. 1202, a bill originally introduced by Representative Brown of California, for the purpose of adding cosponsors and requesting reprints under clause 7 of rule XII.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.